

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1-72 (Canceled)

73. (Currently Amended) A signal encoding method ~~characterized by~~comprising:
detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and
inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal ~~only~~ within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,
wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have a meaning at a certain time width that compulsorily sets a given domain to selected bits independent of a statistically represented signal.

74. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method as claimed in claim 73, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

75. (Previously Presented) A signal encoding method as claim in claim 74, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Currently Amended) A signal encoder ~~characterized by~~ comprising:
detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and
inserting means for inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal ~~only~~ within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal,
wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have a meaning at a certain time width that compulsorily sets a given domain to selected bits independent of a statistically represented signal.

78. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 77, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

79. (Previously Presented) A signal encoder as claimed in claim 78, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously Presented) A signal transmitting method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a
predetermined time interval;

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only
within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the
video signal and/or audio signal,

wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have a meaning at a
certain time width that compulsorily sets a given domain to selected bits independent of a
statistically represented signal; and

transmitting the video signal and/or audio signal into which said identification signal has
been inserted.

82-88. (Canceled)